



City of **Brea** Water Division

2021 Water Quality Report

BREA

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DATA FOR 2020

Your 2021 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. **This year's report covers calendar year 2020 drinking water quality testing and reporting.** Your City of Brea Water Division vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards.

In some cases, the City goes beyond what is required by testing for unregulated chemicals that may have known health risks but do not have drinking water standards. For example, the California Domestic Water Company (Cal Domestic), which supplies the City with treated groundwater, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC), which supplies treated imported surface water to the City, test for unregulated

chemicals in our water supply. Unregulated chemical monitoring helps USEPA and DDW determine where certain chemicals occur and whether new standards need to be established for those chemicals to protect public health.

Through the drinking water quality testing programs carried out by Cal Domestic for our groundwater, MWDSC for imported surface water and the City of Brea Water Division for our water distribution system, your drinking water is constantly monitored from source to tap for regulated and unregulated constituents.

The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.



Constant Monitoring Ensures Continued Excellence

Sources of Supply

Your drinking water is a blend of surface water imported by the MWDSC, and ground-water imported from Cal Domestic in Whittier. MWDSC's imported water sources are the Colorado River and the State Water Project, which draws water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Cal Domestic water originates from the Main San Gabriel groundwater basin.



Basic Information About Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the layers of the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:



- ◆ **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- ◆ **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- ◆ **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- ◆ **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the DDW prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that, when ingested, can cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal symptoms. The organism comes from animal and/or human wastes and may be in surface water. The MWDSC tested their source water and treated surface water for *Cryptosporidium* in 2020 but did not detect it. If it ever is detected, *Cryptosporidium* is eliminated by an effective treatment combination including sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The USEPA and the federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or online at www.epa.gov/safewater.



Drinking Water Fluoridation

Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. Of the 50 largest cities in the U.S., 43 fluoridate their drinking water. In December 2007, the MWDSC joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers in adding fluoride to drinking water in order to prevent tooth decay. MWDSC was in compliance with all provisions of the State's fluoridation system requirements. Our local water is not supplemented with fluoride. Fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum dosage of 2 parts per million.

There are many places to go for additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water.



U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html

For more information about MWDSC's fluoridation program, please contact Edgar G. Dymally at edymally@mwdh2o.com or you may call him at (213) 217-5709.

Immunocompromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people, such as those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have had organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk to infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.



We Invite You to Learn More About Your Water's Quality

For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Rudy Correa at (714) 990-7697.

The Brea City Council meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Council Chambers at 1 Civic Center Circle. Public attendance and participation is encouraged and welcomed.

For more information about the health effects of the listed constituents in the following tables, call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hotline at (800) 426-4791.



We Comply with All State & Federal Water Quality Regulations

Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts

Disinfection of drinking water was one of the major public health advances in the 20th century. Disinfection was a major factor in reducing waterborne disease epidemics caused by pathogenic bacteria and viruses, and it remains an essential part of drinking water treatment today.



Chlorine disinfection has almost completely eliminated from our lives the risks of microbial waterborne diseases. Chlorine is added to your drinking water at the source of supply (groundwater well or surface water treatment plant). Enough chlorine is added so that it does not completely dissipate

through the distribution system pipes. This “residual” chlorine helps to prevent the growth of bacteria in the pipes that carry drinking water from the source into your home.

However, chlorine can react with naturally-occurring materials in the water to

Chart Legend

What are Water Quality Standards?

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The charts in this report show the following types of water quality standards:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Secondary MCLs:** Set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

What is a Water Quality Goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The charts in this report include three types of water quality goals:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by USEPA.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

How are Contaminants Measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year.

Contaminants are measured in:

- parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

2020 City of Brea Imported Groundwater Quality

Chemical	MCL	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radiologicals							
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2.7	2 – 3.2	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Organic Chemicals							
Trichloroethylene, TCE (ppb)	5	1.7	0.73	ND – 1.1	No	2020	Industrial Discharge
Inorganic Chemicals							
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	2.2	ND – 2.6	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.13	0.12 – 0.13	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.3	0.28 – 0.32	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrate (ppm as N)	10	10	3.7	3.1 – 4.6	No	2020	Fertilizers, Septic Tanks
Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm as N)	10	10	3.7	3.1 – 4.6	No	2020	Fertilizers, Septic Tanks
Secondary Standards*							
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	20	19 – 20	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	n/a	1	1	No	2020	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	485	480 – 490	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	42	41 – 42	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	295	280 – 310	No	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Unregulated Chemicals							
Alkalinity, total (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	170	170	n/a	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Bicarbonate (ppm as HCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	200	200	n/a	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	65	65	n/a	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	210	210	n/a	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	Not Regulated	0.02	2.6	2.5 – 2.7	n/a	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8	7.8 – 8.1	n/a	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	3.2	3.2	n/a	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	17	16 – 17	n/a	2020	Erosion of Natural Deposits

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; pCi/L = pico curies per liter; ND = not detected; n/a = not applicable; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; PHG = California Public Health Goal
*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

2020 City of Brea Distribution System Water Quality

Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	4	1 – 5.7	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	2	ND – 2.7	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	0.88	0.66 – 1.03	No	Disinfectant Added for Treatment
Aesthetic Quality					
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	1	1 – 2	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	<0.1	ND – 0.8	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Four locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. Fifteen locations in the distribution system are tested monthly for color, odor and turbidity. Color was not detected in 2020. MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps

	Action Level (AL)	Public Health Goal	90 th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	1/32	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.28	0/32	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Every three years, at least 30 residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2020. Lead was detected in 3 homes; one exceeded the regulatory action level. Copper was detected in 27 homes; none exceeded the regulatory action level. A regulatory action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. In 2020, no school submitted a request to be sampled for lead.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring in the Distribution System

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.2	0.3 – 2.8	2018
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	<0.5	ND – 1.4	2018
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.57	ND – 1.6	2018
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.7	0.43 – 3.2	2018
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	MCLG = 0	1.2	0.55 – 3.3	2018
Monobromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	<0.3	ND – 0.77	2018
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	MCLG = 20	<0.5	ND – 2.2	2018

form unintended chemical byproducts, called disinfection byproducts (DBPs), which may pose health risks. A major challenge is how to balance the risks from microbial pathogens and DBPs. It is important to provide protection from these microbial pathogens while simultaneously ensuring decreasing health risks from disinfection byproducts.



The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the USEPA to develop rules to achieve these goals.

Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) are the most common and most studied DBPs found in drinking water treated with chlorine. In 1979, the USEPA set the maximum amount of total THMs allowed in drinking water at 100 parts per billion as an annual running average. Effective in January 2002, the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule lowered the total THM maximum annual average level to 80 parts per billion and added HAA5 to the list of regulated chemicals in drinking water. Your drinking water complies with the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

Stage 2 of the regulation was finalized by USEPA in 2006, which further controls allowable levels of DBPs in drinking water without compromising disinfection itself. A required distribution system evaluation was completed in 2008 and a Stage 2 monitoring plan has been approved by DDW. Full Stage 2 compliance began in 2012.

About Lead in Tap Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

The City of Brea Water Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water

for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or on the web at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Want Additional Information?

There's a wealth of information on the internet about Drinking Water Quality and water issues in general, especially the drought and conservation. Some good sites to begin your own research are:

City of Brea: www.cityofbrea.net

Water Conservation Tips & Rebate Information:
www.ocwatersmart.com

Source Water Assessments

Imported (MWDSC) Water Assessment

Every five years, MWDSC is required by DDW to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters.

The most recent watershed sanitary surveys of its source water supplies from the Colorado River was updated in 2015 and the State Water Project was updated in 2016.

Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater.

USEPA also requires MWDSC to complete one Source Water Assessment (SWA) that utilizes information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. MWDSC completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed.

A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling MWDSC at (800) CALL-MWD (225-5693).

Groundwater Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for California Domestic Water Company was completed in October 2010. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: Drinking water treatment plants, known contaminant plumes, underground storage tanks — confirmed leaking tanks, housing — high density, Wells — water supply, and schools.

The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: transportation corridors — freeways/state highways, and transportation corridors — railroads.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at: California Domestic Water Co., 15505 Whittier Boulevard, Whittier, CA 90603. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting: Ernesto Che Venegas, Director of Water Operations, (562) 947-3811.

2020 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Treated Surface Water

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Chemical
Radiologicals – Tested in 2020						
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15	(0)	ND	ND – 3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Beta Radiation (pCi/L)	50	(0)	ND	ND – 7	No	Decay of Natural and Man-made Deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2	1 – 3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Chemicals – Tested in 2020						
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	0.137	ND – 0.26	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.107	0.107	No	Refinery Discharge, Erosion of Natural Deposits
Bromate (ppb)	10	0.1	1.9	ND – 1.3	No	Byproduct of Drinking Water Ozonation
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.7	0.5 – 0.9	No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2020						
Aluminum (ppb)	200*	600	137	ND – 260	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	94	93 – 94	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	1	1	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	n/a	2	2	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	970	964 – 975	No	Substances that Form Ions in Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	216	215 – 217	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	592	582 – 603	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Unregulated Chemicals – Tested in 2020						
Alkalinity, total as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	118	117 – 120	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Boron (ppm)	NL = 1	n/a	0.13	0.13	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	66	65 – 67	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	265	261 – 269	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gallon)	Not Regulated	n/a	15	15 – 16	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	26	25 – 26	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
N-nitrosodimethylamine (ppt)	NL = 10	n/a	3.1	3.1	n/a	Byproduct of Drinking Water Chloramination, Industrial Processes
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.1	8.1	n/a	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	4.6	4.5 – 4.7	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	96	93 – 98	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	n/a	2.4	2.2 – 2.7	n/a	Various Natural and Man-made Sources

ppb = parts per billion; ppm = parts per million; ppt = parts per trillion; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; ND = not detected; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; PHG = California Public Health Goal; NL = Notification Level; n/a = not applicable; TT = treatment technique *Chemical is regulated by a secondary standard.

Turbidity – combined filter effluent Metropolitan Water District Diemer Filtration Plant	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements	TT Violation?	Typical Source of Chemical
1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.3 NTU	0.04	No	Soil Runoff
2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms. NTU = nephelometric turbidity units. Low turbidity in Metropolitan's treated water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT).

A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of chemicals in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Manganese (ppb)**	SMCL = 50	n/a	0.48	ND – 1.2	2018

SMCL = Secondary MCL

**Manganese is regulated with a secondary standard of 50 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 20 ppb. Manganese was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

Quality Water is Our Priority – Depend on Us



Turn the tap and the water flows, as if by magic. Or so it seems. The reality is considerably different, however. Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers is a scientific and engineering feat that requires considerable effort and talent to ensure the water is always there, always safe to drink.

Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment and distribution operators must be licensed.

Our licensed water professionals have an understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- ◆ Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- ◆ Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- ◆ Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- ◆ Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- ◆ Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind every drop.

This report contains important information about your drinking water.
Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*



City of Brea Water Division

1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, California 92821-5758

ON THE COVER:

BIRCH HILLS GOLF COURSE

A jewel of the City, this affordable Par 59, 3100 yard golf course offers all the amenities for an enjoyable round of golf. Located at 2250 E. Birch Street.



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